

Woman's Department.

NOVEL BALL GOWNS.

PICTURESQUE FLORAL COSTUMES
WORN BY YOUNG GIRLS.

An Innovation That Pleased New York Society—The New Summer Fabrics—Described—Dainty French Gingham—How the Summer Dresses Will Be Made.

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IN THE occasion of a recent dinner and ball the three young daughters of the house and three of their girl friends retired from the ball-room for a few minutes and returned in short dresses made of gold brocade in basket fashion worn upon them. The corsages were masses of flowers, and each had a handle made of basket work fastened so as to frame the pretty face like the handle of a basket. One had lilies of the valley only, another violets, one roses, and so through all the spring blossoms, and they went through with a pretty little dance that had been devised for them by their dancing teacher. Then they dashed out again, and when they returned they wore the regulation dancing dresses of filmy white, floating pink, ethereal blue, or the tender green of springtime, and went on with their dancing as if nothing unusual had happened, but the innovation was unexpected and gave the guests something to talk about.

At the Germans this season the favors have been very odd and curious rather than costly, and the wise hostess tries to think of something that nobody has ever had before. One of the wealthiest ladies in the city had whole families of those stuffed tabby cats that are sold for ten cents apiece for favors, and each had a long ribbon tied around its neck so that it could be carried, and the object was for each one to see how many he or she could carry at once. One young lady had three hung around her neck.

As an offset the dinner favors consisted of large orchids of flagstone silver, each holding the stems rolled up and stood in the center of a bunch of violets, which had their stems in the lip of the orchid. The new summer fabrics are all bought and now being made up as rapidly as possible, and some of them are perfectly elegant and quite as dainty as silks. The care exercised in making up the summer gowns, though they are of inexpensive material, is as great as if it were cloth of gold. Every one fits as though moulded, and every stitch is as fine and neat as fingers can sew them, and by the way, they are nearly all made by hand. It is one of the tests—a hand or machine work—and of course the one that costs the most labor is the best.

There is a very nobby stuff called Priscilla homespun. It is very ugly, but stylish, and is being largely worn for run about frocks, and there is a changeable chevrot which makes up into a handsome dress, and for every day in early spring there is cashmere, with serge and satiny stripes; fancy pinhead checks; cambray hair, with fancy weaves and satin stripes, and several effects of the same.

There are for handkerchief gowns, for calling, carriage, reception and other occasions which require more elaborate toilet pattern, dresses of rich broadcloth, and this now comes already shrunken, and there are lighter ladies' cloths, some of them having stripes of cambray hair on the surface. This is sometimes seen in gray, with soft creamy white lines over it, and it makes lovely dresses.

But the lace French gingham and the tinsel plaid gingham, the satin plaid and stripe goods of the same class, the novelty stripes, the embroidered stripes, the Roman stripe, the broche figured, the Byzantine stripe sashes, the gren-



NEW CHAMBRAY AND GINGHAM GOWNS. Fine stripes and the half silk gingham make up a line of those goods never before seen, and they make up the very daintiest and most fetching of summer gowns. The colors are all well chosen and well blended.

Among the gingham novelties I find on referring to my notes that there are also raised hair line stripes and Scotch crinkle gingham, as well as patterns where there is a flounce or neck ruffle and sash all embroidered in contrasting color, and I remember one exquisite French crinkle gingham in shell pink, with a delicate embroidery in old rose and brown.

This does not by any means exhaust the list of lovely fabrics for summer gowns, but I want to say a few words as to how these dresses are made—that is to say, the chambray gingham. One home dress was made of light golden brown, with a light outline pattern in black silk chain stitch. It was princess shape and open in front over a slate colored chambray panel, which was in turn worked with brown and light gray.

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The sleeves were of this latter. This gown was for a young married lady who could pile dollars up to the moon if she wished.

Another new gingham was in pinhead checks of salmon and maize, and in the front was an embroidery of brown and black. The dress was princess in the back and fell loosely from the bust line. There was a short jacket, scarce more than a yoke of gray chambray, embroidered and bordered with narrow white braid, and in each vandyke was a flat linen button. The sleeves were quite as elaborate as if the dress was of silk that cost three dollars a yard instead of gingham at forty cents, which is the price of the finest qualities.

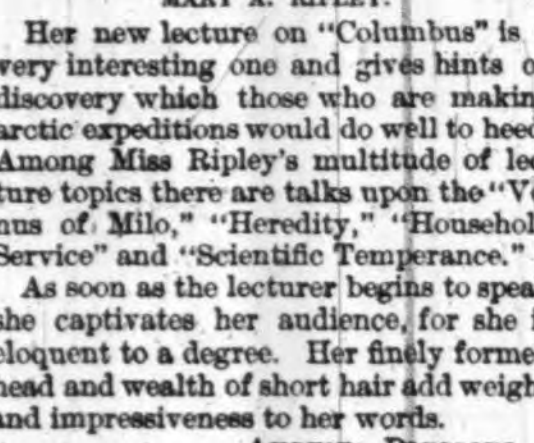
Among some of the new summer gowns there are several designs in turkey reds, and these will have flat lace flounces, either black or cream.

HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU.
New York.

A SMART WOMAN.

She Can Teach School, Talk Politics and Lecture on Twenty Topics. Kearney, Neb., boasts of a genius in the person of Miss Mary A. Ripley, who can talk on more topics than any other woman in the United States. And she can talk interestingly on every one of them too. She is, to use the phrase of a down east woman who heard her lecture, "an awful smart woman."

Miss Ripley was for many years a teacher in the Buffalo high school. Her summers only are spent at Kearney. As soon as the lecture season begins she packs her satchel and starts out to tour it, all over the country—from Portland, Or., to Portland, Me., and from St. Augustine to Montreal.



MARY A. RIPLEY.
Her new lecture on "Columbus" is a very interesting one and gives hints on discovery which those who are making arctic expeditions would do well to heed.

Among Miss Ripley's multitude of lecture topics there are talks upon the "Venus of Milo," "Herodotus," "Household Service" and "Scientific Temperance."

As soon as the lecturer begins to speak she captivates her audience, for she is eloquent to a degree. Her finely formed head and wealth of short hair add weight and impressiveness to her words.

AUGUSTA FRASCOCCI.
HOUSEWORK SIMPLIFIED.
The Methods of a Woman Who "Does Her Own Work."

In this country servants are so uncertain and so poor that any guide from one who "does her own work" successfully cannot fail to be of interest to many women. The periodical in question says in response to questioning as to her methods, which seem perfection:

I determined at the start upon two things: One was that my home should be as daintily nice as ever, so that neither children nor parents should re-examine my habits. The second was that I must husband my strength in all possible ways. I would not have believed how many steps could be saved nor how much unnecessary work I was in the habit of doing until I tried to be careful and to remember. We were thinking, when our maid of all work went away, of moving. The new house was much more desirable in several ways than the old one, but it had a basement kitchen, and I refused that. No woman who can help it should have a flight of stairs between herself and her work.

Then I had a corner cupboard set up in the dining room and filled it with the best china, which had been kept before this in an out of the way closet. Now it was all at hand at a moment's notice. I even filled the kitchen sink cellar with mixed pepper and salt and bought one or two cheap napkin rings, so that there should be no hesitation in setting the table from having several nearly alike. I only give these as instances of my scrupulous care. There were many others like them.

I used a good deal of fruit instead of made desserts, and when I did bake pies or boil puddings I had a sufficient quantity to reheat for another day. Fortunately for us housekeepers almost everything eatable can be purchased in cans, and I always have a plentiful on hand ready to "fall back on." I early abandoned my old fashioned idea of having everything that the market affords put upon the table at once. Instead of that, I make the variety from day to day, and find the result infinitely easier for me and more agreeable to my family. Several times a week I have soup, or sometimes a bit of fish or salad, or an entree besides the meat, with potatoes and one other kind of vegetable, never more than one kind, but that changed so from dinner to dinner that I do not hear the old cry any more, "I am so tired of this or that!"

One of my little daughters has been trained to change the plates; the other helps me greatly about the house. All the children have learned to do their share of the work. One of them dusts after my sweeping and another "brushes up" the halls and stairs. I believe that is the hardest thing of all to learn—how to make others help. I have acquired it because I confidently believe I have acquired most of the art of simplifying housework.

RUTH HALL.

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The Cruising Elves.
Three elves sailed forth on a flake of snow. And a great wind soon began to blow.
"We must take in sail at once," said they.
"With a yoo, heave ho! heave ho, belay!"
Then they looked about them fore and aft, But they found no sail on their snowflake craft.
"We must port our helm instead," said they.
"With a yoo, heave ho! heave ho, belay!"



But, alas, there wasn't a helm to shift. So they ran aground on a big snowdrift.
"This isn't bad seamanship," said they.
"With a yoo, heave ho! heave ho, belay!"
"You can't reef sails that you haven't got. Or port your helm where a helm is not. But we know what should be done," said they.
"With a yoo, heave ho! heave ho, belay!"

To Elftown straight from that spot they sped. And they paced the streets with a naval tread.
"It was a most successful cruise," said they.
"With our yoo, heave ho! heave ho, belay!"
—Felix Leigh in St. Nicholas.

The President and the Bootblack.

During the troubles in South America last fall, in which the United States of Columbia were involved, a dirty and ragged bootblack presented himself one day at the gate of the president's palace in Bogota. He was ordered to move on, but insisted with such ardor upon seeing the president that a messenger finally told that dignitary of the boy's request.
"Let him come in," was the order.
"What do you want?" asked the president as the bootblack entered.
"Your protection, Mr. President," answered the boy.

"And protection for whom?"
"For myself and companions."
"But I do not know you, nor do I know who your companions are nor what protection you seek."
"Mr. President," said the boy, posing in a bold attitude, "I am a poor bootblack, and my companions are of the same calling. We shine boots and sell newspapers, and with what we earn we feed and clothe ourselves, and as far as we can assist our families. At other times the same thing has occurred as today, but no one has dared to make a complaint, and if there was a newspaper that would do it the facts would be denied by some official, but today they can't deny what is taking place."
"And what is taking place?" interrupted the great man.
"We are being taken as recruits, Mr. President."

"But, my boy, there is no recruiting going on now."
"We are not recruited for the army, Mr. President, but we are tied and carried to work on coffee plantations. Even at this moment 30 of my comrades are leaving Bogota under an escort for either Tolima or Fusaguanga."

The president made inquiries and immediately took steps to remedy the wrong.—Harper's Young People.

New Musical Prodigy.

A musical world is promised a sensation such as it has not enjoyed since the appearance of JETTY Hoffman. A new juvenile star has been discovered, this time in Russia. The young aspirant for fame and public favor is a very handsome and healthy looking Russian boy 12 years of age. During Rubenstein's recent concert tour through the empire his attention was called to the lad, and after a thorough examination of his abilities Rubenstein declared that the boy, if due regard was given his musical education, would rival the world's greatest violinists. The lad has made a short concert tour through the northern part of Europe and met with wonderful success everywhere. He also has had the honor of playing for the czar, who personally expressed his pleasure at seeing such a degree of skill and such splendid interpretation of difficult music in one so young. It has been decided that the boy is not to be permitted to appear on the concert stage.—Exchange.

Saved by the Sheep.
A Boise City little girl started across the divide for school the other day, and shortly after set in. As she had not reached the school house at 12 o'clock it was feared that she was lost, and accordingly a searching party wandered over the hills, hoping to find some trace of the poor little girl. They at last found her in an old shed with a number of sheep, among which she had cuddled down, and thus escaped being frozen to death.



Fashion Note.
"Miss Kittie McGinty appeared on the boulevard yesterday in a handsome new center of novel design."

Not His Fault.
Teacher—What made you late at school this morning?
Boy—Our new girl.
Teacher—Did she have breakfast late?
Boy—No'm, but she shut th' kitchen door, an I couldn't smell the buckwheat cakes.—Good News.

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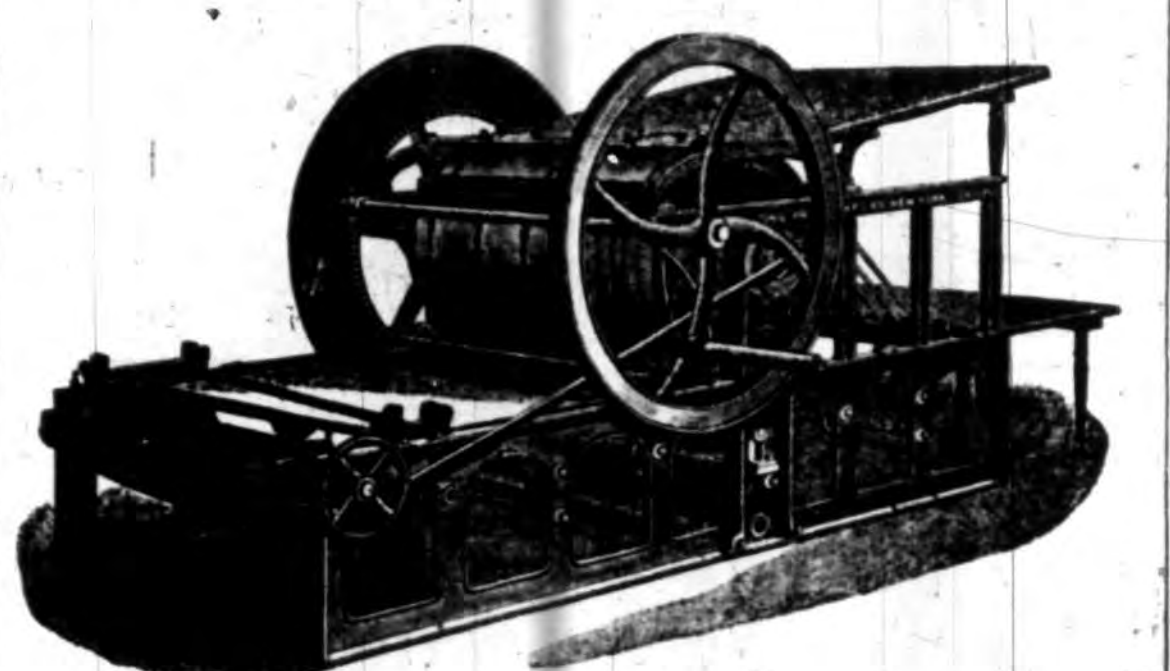
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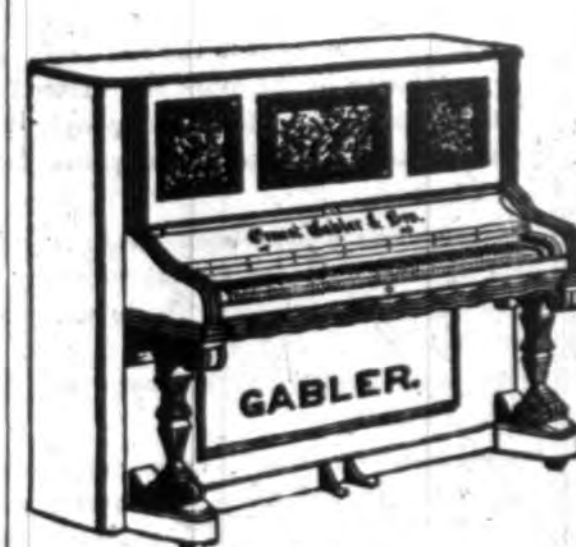
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